

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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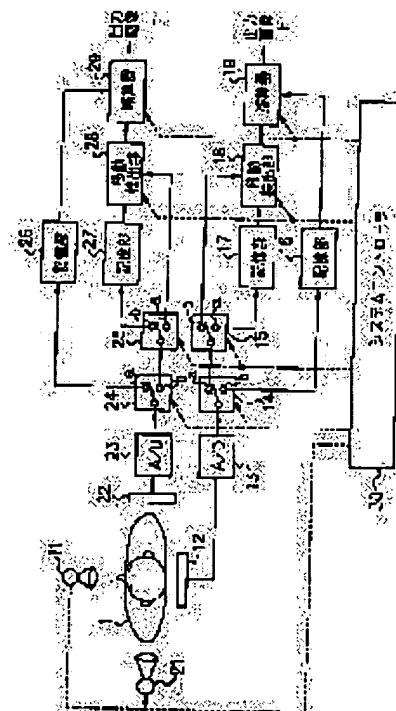
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(54) RADIATION IMAGING INSTRUMENT AND STORAGE MEDIUM READABLE BY COMPUTER

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To simplify a structure for preventing the lowering of a frame rate and prevent the displacement between the frontal and lateral images in a biplane radiation imaging instrument.

SOLUTION: Alternate irradiation images as the transmission images of an object 1 are obtained from the radiation detector 12 and 22 by alternately operating the radiation sources 11 and 21, and stored in the storage parts 17 and 27, and the images formed by scattering lines diffused from the object 1 are stored in the storage parts 16 and 26. Then the switches are turned to simultaneously operate the radiation sources 11 and 21, the movement of the object 1 is detected by the movement detecting parts 18 and 28 on the basis of the obtained images and the images from the storage parts 17 and 27, and the obtained image is corrected on the basis of the scattering line images of the storage parts 16 and 26 by the subtractors 19 and 29 when the movement is not detected. When the movement is detected, the alternate irradiation is executed again, and the storage parts 16 and 26 are updated by the obtained scattering line images.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The 1st exposure means which irradiates a radiation from the 1st direction at a photographic subject, and the 1st detection means which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject from the 1st direction of the above, and outputs image data, The 2nd exposure means which irradiates a radiation from the 2nd direction at the above-mentioned photographic subject, and the 2nd detection means which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject from the 2nd direction of the above, and outputs image data, A storage means to memorize the 1st dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd when operating only the exposure means of the above 1st, When operating to coincidence a storage means to memorize the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 1st when operating only the exposure means of the above 2nd, and the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means Radiation image pick-up equipment equipped with an amendment means to amend the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd by the 1st dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage while the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 1st.

[Claim 2] Radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 1 characterized by establishing 1st and 2nd migration detection means to detect migration of the above-mentioned photographic subject over the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means for every time, respectively when coincidence is made to carry out multiple-times actuation of the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means.

[Claim 3] When the above 1st or the 2nd migration detection means detects the above-mentioned migration, The control means to which the exposure of only the exposure means of the above 1st and the exposure of only the 2nd exposure means are made to carry out in order, Radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by establishing the 1st obtained by the above-mentioned exposure by the above-mentioned control means, the 1st by which storage was carried out [above-mentioned] by the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data, and an updating means to update the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data.

[Claim 4] Each image data by which the above 1st and the 2nd migration detection means are acquired from the above 1st and the 2nd detection means by the exposure of only the exposure means of the above 1st, and the exposure of only the 2nd exposure means, Radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by detecting the above-mentioned migration, respectively from each variation between each image data obtained from the 1st and 2nd detection means by the coincidence exposure of the 1st and 2nd exposure means performed after that.

[Claim 5] An image 1st and the 2nd migration detection means are radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by detecting the above-mentioned migration, respectively from the variation of the image which has a light image acquisition means to acquire the light image of the above-mentioned photographic subject, and is continuously outputted from this light image acquisition means.

[Claim 6] An image 1st and the 2nd migration detection means are radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by being prepared in the above-mentioned photographic subject contact or non-contact, and detecting migration of a photographic subject directly.

[Claim 7] An image 1st and the 2nd migration detection means are radiation image pick-up equipment according to claim 2 characterized by being prepared in the table which puts the above-mentioned photographic

subject, and detecting migration of this table.

[Claim 8] The exposure processing which irradiates a radiation from the 1st direction at a photographic subject using the 1st exposure means, The detection processing which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 1st detection means from the 1st direction of the above, and outputs image data, The exposure processing which irradiates a radiation from the 2nd direction at the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 2nd exposure means, The detection processing which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 2nd detection means from the 2nd direction of the above, and outputs image data, The storage processing which memorizes the 1st dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd when operating only the exposure means of the above 1st, When operating to coincidence the storage processing which memorizes the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 1st when operating only the exposure means of the above 2nd, and the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means While the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 1st The storage which memorized the program for performing amendment processing which amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd by the 1st dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage and in which computer reading is possible.

[Claim 9] The storage which is characterized by preparing the above 1st, the processing which makes coincidence carry out multiple-times actuation of the 2nd exposure means, and the processing which detects migration of the above-mentioned photographic subject [as opposed to the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means the whole time] using the 1st and 2nd migration detection means, respectively and in which computer reading according to claim 8 is possible.

[Claim 10] When the above 1st or the 2nd migration detection means detects the above-mentioned migration, The control processing to which the exposure of only the exposure means of the above 1st and the exposure of only the 2nd exposure means are made to carry out in order, The storage which is characterized by preparing the update process which updates the 1st [which was obtained by the above-mentioned exposure by the above-mentioned control processing], 1st [by which storage was carried out / above-mentioned / by the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data], and 2nd dispersion line drawing image data and in which computer reading according to claim 9 is possible.

[Claim 11] Each image data by which detection processing of the above-mentioned migration is obtained from the above 1st and the 2nd detection means by the exposure of only the exposure means of the above 1st, and the exposure of only the 2nd exposure means, The storage which is characterized by detecting the above-mentioned migration, respectively from each variation between each image data obtained from the 1st and 2nd detection means by the coincidence exposure of the 1st and 2nd exposure means performed after that and in which computer reading according to claim 9 is possible.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention irradiates a radiation at a photographic subject, is used for the BAIPU rain radiation image pick-up equipment which picturizes especially a photographic subject from plurality about the storage which is used for the radiation intensity distribution which penetrated this photographic subject, i.e., the radiation image pick-up equipment which acquires a radiation image, and this equipment and in which computer reading is possible, and is suitable.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The radiation image pick-up equipment which acquires the internal structure of a photographic subject as an image is conventionally used widely in nondestructive inspection, a medical diagnosis, etc. of industrial use by detecting the intensity distribution of the radiation which irradiated the radiation and was penetrated for a photographic subject. The radiation which irradiated the radiation and penetrated it for the photographic subject is changed into the light with a fluorescent screen using what combined the fluorescent screen (or intensifying screen) which emits fluorescence with a radiation, and the silver halide film as the most general image pick-up approach for obtaining the radiation image of a photographic subject, a silver halide film is exposed, and the method of obtaining a visible image is well used by carrying out the chemical treatment of this silver halide film.

[0003] Although the above-mentioned approach is an approach of obtaining a static image, after beginning from guessing luminescence of a fluorescent screen a direct view in ancient times as an approach of obtaining a dynamic image and amplifying output light with a photo-multiplier or an image intensifier (it is hereafter described as I.I.), the approach of recording on SHINEFIRUMU etc. has been performed. In recent years, the approach of digitizing and recording a radiation image is used by using photo-electric-conversion devices, such as CCD, for the Records Department.

[0004] Moreover, in IVR(s), such as an imaging image pick-up performed by inserting a catheter and pouring in a contrast medium, and a therapy of the vasoconstriction by balun insertion, it is necessary to obtain the conformation of a blood vessel, and, for this reason, the so-called BAIPU rain image pick-up which irradiates a radiation from a 2-way to a photographic subject, and detects a transparency radiation, respectively is performed.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] The radiation which penetrates a photographic subject decreases by absorption and dispersion. These absorption and dispersion are influenced of the wavelength of descriptions, such as a consistency of a photographic subject, an effective atomic number, and thickness, and a radiation etc. Among these, decrease by absorption of a photographic subject forms subject contrast, and causes [of main information] taking out. On the other hand, the scattered radiation is a radiation which there is no directivity and are scattered about, is set like the formation fault of a radiation image, and reduces sharpness and contrast. Prepare the grid which becomes the radiation plane of incidence of I.I. from the grid of a thin metallic foil as this cure, a radiation effective in forming an image is made to penetrate, and the method of making the scattered radiation absorb by the grid is used.

[0006] Moreover, in the above-mentioned BAIPUREN image pick-up, since a radiation is irradiated from a 2-way (FURONTARU, lateral), just the approach using the above-mentioned grid is not enough. As mentioned

above, the scattered radiation does not have directivity and is generated in all the parts of a photographic subject. For this reason, supposing a radiation is irradiated by the system of FURONTARU, without being absorbed by the grid, incidence of the scattered-radiation component diffused in the same direction as the system of a lateral among that radiation will be carried out to the television section of the system of a lateral, and it will degrade an image.

[0007] While performing each radiation irradiation of FURONTARU and a lateral by turns conventionally as this cure, the method of avoiding the effect of the scattered radiation in a mutual system is used by forming an electric or mechanical shutter in the television section, and performing a blanking.

[0008] However, by the above-mentioned approach, since the timing of radiation irradiation differed by FURONTARU and the lateral which a frame rate reduces by half since radiation irradiation (image pick-up) and a blanking are performed by turns, in order to perform the blanking which a time lag produces between images, there was a problem of ** -- the device of the television section or a radiation control section becomes complicated.

[0009] By having accomplished in order to solve the above-mentioned problem, and losing blanking actuation in a BAIPU rain image pick-up, this invention enables it to perform timing of the radiation irradiation of FURONTARU and a lateral to abbreviation coincidence, and aims at losing the time lag between both images substantially by this.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In radiation image pick-up equipment according to this invention in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose The 1st exposure means which irradiates a radiation from the 1st direction at a photographic subject, and the 1st detection means which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject from the 1st direction of the above, and outputs image data, The 2nd exposure means which irradiates a radiation from the 2nd direction at the above-mentioned photographic subject, and the 2nd detection means which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject from the 2nd direction of the above, and outputs image data, A storage means to memorize the 1st dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd when operating only the exposure means of the above 1st, When operating to coincidence a storage means to memorize the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 1st when operating only the exposure means of the above 2nd, and the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means While the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 1st, an amendment means to amend the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd by the 1st dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage is established.

[0011] Moreover, it sets to the storage by this invention in which computer reading is possible. The exposure processing which irradiates a radiation from the 1st direction at a photographic subject using the 1st exposure means, The detection processing which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 1st detection means from the 1st direction of the above, and outputs image data, The exposure processing which irradiates a radiation from the 2nd direction at the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 2nd exposure means, The detection processing which detects the radiation which penetrated the above-mentioned photographic subject using the 2nd detection means from the 2nd direction of the above, and outputs image data, The storage processing which memorizes the 1st dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd when operating only the exposure means of the above 1st, When operating to coincidence the storage processing which memorizes the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data based on the scattered radiation obtained from the detection means of the above 1st when operating only the exposure means of the above 2nd, and the above 1st and the 2nd exposure means While the 2nd dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 1st, the program for performing amendment processing which amends the image data obtained from the detection means of the above 2nd by the 1st dispersion line drawing image data which carried out [above-mentioned] storage is memorized.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained with a drawing. Drawing 1 is the block diagram showing the gestalt of operation of the 1st of the radiation image pick-up equipment by this invention. In drawing 1, while the radiation source 11 and the radiation detector 12 of a FURONTARU system are prepared to a photographic subject 1, the radiation source 21 and the radiation detector 22 of a lateral system are prepared. The above-mentioned radiation detectors 12 and 22 change into an electrical signal the radiation transmission image which carried out incidence, and what equipped the output screen of I.I. with CCD, the thing which carried out the laminating of the fluorescent substance on the two-dimensional optoelectric transducer which consists of CCD, an amorphous silicon, or an amorphous selenium are used. These all output the analog electrical signal according to the amount of incidence of the radiation to each pixel for every pixel.

[0013] Drawing 2 shows timing of operation and is XF. The exposure timing of a FURONTARU system, and XL The exposure timing of a lateral system is shown.

[0014] An operator's push of an image pick-up carbon button (not shown) performs a dispersion line drawing image acquisition procedure first. This procedure irradiates a radiation by turns by FURONTARU and the lateral, and acquires the dispersion line drawing image by the scattered radiation which carried out incidence from another system mutually, and the non-amended image by mutual exposure.

[0015] An exposure shall be performed from the introduction FURONTARU side and a system controller 30 connects switches 14, 15, and 24 to the a side at this time. Next, a system controller 30 operates the radiation source 11 according to the tube electric current set up separately, tube voltage, and irradiation time, and fires a radiation. This radiation penetrates a photographic subject 1 and that transparency image is changed into an analog electrical signal with a radiation detector 12. This analog electrical signal is changed into digital image data IF0 of drawing 2 with A/D converter 13. This IF0 is memorized by the storage section 17 as the above-mentioned mutual exposure non-amended image through switches 14 and 15.

[0016] In the above-mentioned image pick-up, the scattered radiation produced since the radiations from the radiation source 11 by the side of FURONTARU were scattered about with the photographic subject 1 carries out incidence to the radiation detector 22 by the side of a lateral. The analog electrical signal outputted from this radiation detector 22 is changed into image data SL0 digital with A/D converter 23. This SL0 is memorized by the storage section 26 as a dispersion line drawing image through a switch 24.

[0017] Next, in order to perform an exposure from a lateral side, a system controller 30 connects switches 24, 25, and 14 to the b side. And while image data IL0 is memorized by the storage section 27 as mutual exposure a non-amended image by performing an exposure from a radiation source 21 like ****, image data SF0 is memorized by the storage section 16 as a dispersion line drawing image. The dispersion line drawing images SF0 and SL0, and the mutual exposure non-amended images IF0 and IL0 are obtained by FURONTARU and the lateral system by the above, respectively.

[0018] In this case, since the above-mentioned mutual exposure non-amended images IF0 and IL0 are images acquired by having irradiated the radiation independently by turns, they have not had effect of the scattered radiation on the mutual system. For this reason, a system controller 30 is controlled so that data bypass latter migration detecting elements 18 and 28 and subtractors 19 and 29 which are mentioned later, and the above-mentioned mutual exposure non-amended images IF0 and IL0 memorized by the storage sections 17 and 27 are made to output.

[0019] Next, FURONTARU and a lateral coincidence exposure procedure are performed. For this reason, a system controller 30 connects a switch 14 to the a side, and connects a switch 15 to the b side. Moreover, a switch 24 is connected to the b side and a switch 25 is connected to the a side.

[0020] In this condition, if a radiation is made to irradiate coincidence from the radiation sources 11 and 21, the radiation penetrated or scattered about will carry out incidence of the photographic subject 1 to radiation detectors 12 and 22, and the coincidence exposure non-amended images IF1 and IL1 of drawing 2 will be obtained through A/D converters 13 and 23. This IF1 and IL1 are sent to the migration detecting elements 18 and 28 of a photographic subject 1, and migration of a photographic subject 1 is detected.

[0021] The internal configuration element of the photographic subjects 1, such as an organ of the heart, a blood vessel, and others, is extracted, for example, and in the migration detecting elements 18 and 28, when [which detect the movement vector of the area, a boundary length, and a center of gravity] described by the

coincidence exposure non-amended images IF1 and IL1 acquired the mutual exposure non-amended images IF0 and IL0 and memorized by the storage sections 17 and 27, and now, migration of a photographic subject 1 is detected. Generally, since the scattered radiation is what is depended on the radiation scattered about with the photographic subject 1, it does not receive effect in the motion of some of photographic subjects 1, for example, a motion of the body by breathing, so much.

[0022] However, in the case where it moves so greatly that the photography part of a photographic subject 1 changes or the direction of incidence of a radiation changes or it changes the photography part continuously, moving the photography table on which the photographic subject 1 was put, distribution of the scattered radiation also changes a lot. For this reason, when a threshold with the movement magnitude of the detected photographic subject 1 is exceeded, and performing the dispersion line drawing image acquisition procedure by mutual exposure again so that it may mention later and not exceeding a threshold, the variation of the scattered radiation judges that it is in tolerance, and performs a coincidence exposure procedure.

[0023] Supposing a motion of a photographic subject 1 is not now detected from IF1 and IL1, IF1 and IL1 are sent to subtractors 19 and 29 as it is, amendment which subtracts the dispersion line drawing images SF0 and SL0 of the storage sections 16 and 26 here will be performed, and the amended image data will be outputted. Henceforth, the above-mentioned actuation is performed until migration of a photographic subject 1 is detected.

[0024] Next, when you acquire the coincidence exposure non-amended images IF6 and IL6 of drawing 2, suppose that migration of a photographic subject 1 was detected by the migration detecting elements 18 and 28. IF6-SF0 and IL6-SL0 are outputted as an image by which amendment was carried out [above-mentioned] at this time. The dispersion line drawing image acquisition procedure by the mutual exposure again mentioned above is performed after the above-mentioned output, and the dispersion line drawing image of the storage sections 16 and 26 is updated to SF1 and SL1.

[0025] They are BLF and BFL when the mutual exposure is again performed in drawing 2. Although the image which should be outputted does not exist, the image of a front frame is outputted as it is, or an inter-frame interpolation means is formed in the latter part of subtractors 19 and 29, the image data interpolated from the data of order is created, and you may make it output. Henceforth, while the image pick-up is performed, whenever migration predetermined by the migration detecting elements 18 and 28 is detected, the above-mentioned actuation is repeated, and the dispersion line drawing image of the storage sections 16 and 26 is updated.

[0026] Next, the gestalt of operation of the 2nd of this invention is explained with drawing 3. Although migration of a photographic subject 1 is detected and being detected with the gestalt of implementation of the above 1st from the variation of mutual exposure a non-amended image, and a coincidence exposure a non-amended image, each switches 14, 15, 24, and 25 are connected like drawing 3 with the gestalt of this operation. According to the configuration of drawing 3, migration is detectable by sending the image which amended the image obtained at the time of a coincidence exposure with subtractors 19 and 29 using the dispersion line drawing image of the storage sections 16 and 26, and the image by the mutual exposure of the storage sections 17 and 27 to the migration detecting elements 18 and 28.

[0027] As the other migration detection approaches, migration may be detected from the light image obtained from the video camera etc., for example, without using a radiation image. Moreover, contact or a non-contact migration detection means may be formed in the photographic subject of an acceleration sensor, an electrostatic-capacity detector, etc. Furthermore, migration detection means, such as an acceleration sensor and a potentiometer, may be formed in the photography table which puts a photographic subject.

[0028] In addition, drawing 1 and the system by each functional block of drawing 3 may be constituted in the computer system which may constitute in hard and consists of a CPU, memory, etc. When it constitutes in a computer system, the above-mentioned memory constitutes the storage by this invention. The program for performing procedure for controlling the actuation mentioned above in this storage is memorized.

[0029] Moreover, as this storage, semiconductor memory, such as ROM and RAM, an optical disk, a magneto-optic disk, a magnetic medium, etc. may be used, and these may be constituted and used for CD-ROM, a floppy disk, a magnetic medium, a magnetic card, a non-volatile memory card, etc.

[0030] Therefore, while a function equivalent to the gestalt of each operation mentioned above also by using

with the alien systems or equipment other than the system which showed this storage to drawing 1 and drawing 3, and reading and performing the program code with which that system or computer was stored in this storage is realizable, equivalent effectiveness can be acquired and the purpose of this invention can be attained.

[0031] Moreover, when OS which is working on a computer performs a part or all of processing, Or after the program code read from the storage was written in the memory with which the extension unit connected to the extension board inserted in the computer or the computer is equipped, Also when CPU with which the above-mentioned extension board and an extension unit are equipped performs a part or all of processing based on directions of the program code, while being able to realize a function equivalent to the gestalt of each operation, equivalent effectiveness can be acquired and the purpose of this invention can be attained.

[0032]

[Effect of the Invention] By having constituted so that the image which obtains a dispersion line drawing image by mutual exposure, and is obtained by coincidence exposure with this dispersion line drawing image might be amended, in case a BAIPU rain image pick-up was performed according to this invention, as explained above While being able to lose blanking actuation like before and being able to prevent the fall of a frame rate The configuration of the television section and a radiation control section can be simplified, and FURONTARU and radiation irradiation timing of a lateral can be made into coincidence, and the time lag between both images can be lost.

[0033] Moreover, while migration of a photographic subject is certainly detectable, when migration is detected, an image can be amended with a more sufficient precision by updating the above-mentioned dispersion line drawing image.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram of the radiation image pick-up equipment by the gestalt of operation of the 1st of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the timing chart which shows actuation.

[Drawing 3] It is the block diagram of the important section of the radiation image pick-up equipment by the gestalt of operation of the 2nd of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1 Photographic Subject

11 21 Radiation source

12 22 Radiation detector

13 23 A/D converter

14, 15, 24, 25 Switch

16, 17, 26, 27 Storage section

18 28 Migration detection means

19 29 Subtractor

30 System Controller

[Translation done.]

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 被写体に第1の方向から放射線を照射する第1の照射手段と、

上記第1の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を検出し画像データを出力する第1の検出手段と、

上記被写体に第2の方向から放射線を照射する第2の照射手段と、

上記第2の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を検出し画像データを出力する第2の検出手段と、

上記第1の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第2の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第1の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶手段と、

上記第2の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第1の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第2の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶手段と、

上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に動作させたときに、上記第1の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第2の散乱線画像データで補正すると共に、上記第2の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第1の散乱線画像データで補正する補正手段とを備えた放射線撮像装置。

【請求項2】 上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に複数回動作させたとき、各回毎に上記第1、第2の照射手段に対する上記被写体の移動をそれぞれ検出する第1、第2の移動検出手段を設けたことを特徴とする請求項1記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項3】 上記第1、第2の移動検出手段のいずれかが上記移動を検出したとき、上記第1の照射手段のみの照射と第2の照射手段のみの照射とを順に行わせる制御手段と、上記制御手段による上記照射により得られた第1、第2の散乱線画像データで上記記憶された第1、第2の散乱線画像データを更新する更新手段を設けたことを特徴とする請求項2記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項4】 上記第1、第2の移動検出手段は、上記第1の照射手段のみの照射と第2の照射手段のみの照射とにより上記第1、第2の検出手段から得られる各画像データと、その後に行われる第1、第2の照射手段の同時照射により第1、第2の検出手段から得られる各画像データとの間の各変化量からそれぞれ上記移動を検出することを特徴とする請求項2記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項5】 画像第1、第2の移動検出手段は、上記被写体の可視光画像を取得する可視光画像取得手段を有し、この可視光画像取得手段から連続的に出力される画像の変化量からそれぞれ上記移動を検出することを特徴とする請求項2記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項6】 画像第1、第2の移動検出手段は、上記被写体に接触又は非接触に設けられ、直接に被写体の移動を検出することを特徴とする請求項2記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項7】 画像第1、第2の移動検出手段は、上記

被写体を乗せるテーブルに設けられ、このテーブルの移動を検出することを特徴とする請求項2記載の放射線撮像装置。

【請求項8】 第1の照射手段を用いて被写体に第1の方向から放射線を照射する照射処理と、

上記第1の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を第1の検出手段を用いて検出し画像データを出力する検出処理と、

第2の照射手段を用いて上記被写体に第2の方向から放射線を照射する照射処理と、

上記第2の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を第2の検出手段を用いて検出し画像データを出力する検出処理と、

上記第1の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第2の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第1の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶処理と、

上記第2の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第1の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第2の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶処理と、

上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に動作させたときに、上記第1の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第2の散乱線画像データで補正すると共に、上記第2の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第1の散乱線画像データで補正する補正処理とを実行するためのプログラムを記憶したコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体。

【請求項9】 上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に複数回動作させる処理と、

各回毎に上記第1、第2の照射手段に対する上記被写体の移動をそれぞれ第1、第2の移動検出手段を用いて検出する処理とを設けたことを特徴とする請求項8記載のコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体。

【請求項10】 上記第1、第2の移動検出手段のいずれかが上記移動を検出したとき、上記第1の照射手段のみの照射と第2の照射手段のみの照射とを順に行わせる制御処理と、上記制御処理による上記照射により得られた第1、第2の散乱線画像データで上記記憶された第1、第2の散乱線画像データを更新する更新処理とを設けたことを特徴とする請求項9記載のコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体。

【請求項11】 上記移動の検出処理は、上記第1の照射手段のみの照射と第2の照射手段のみの照射とにより上記第1、第2の検出手段から得られる各画像データと、その後に行われる第1、第2の照射手段の同時照射により第1、第2の検出手段から得られる各画像データとの間の各変化量からそれぞれ上記移動を検出することを特徴とする請求項9記載のコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、被写体に放射線を照射し、この被写体を透過した放射線強度分布、即ち、放射線画像を取得する放射線撮像装置及びこの装置に用いられるコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体に関し、特に被写体を複数方向から撮像するバイプレーン放射線撮像装置に用いて好適なものである。

【0002】

【従来の技術】被写体に放射線を照射し、透過した放射線の強度分布を検出することにより、被写体の内部構造を画像として取得する放射線撮像装置は、従来より工業用の非破壊検査や医療診断等において広く用いられている。被写体の放射線画像を得るための最も一般的な撮像方法としては、放射線により蛍光を発する蛍光板（又は増感紙）と銀塩フィルムとを組み合わせたものを用い、被写体に放射線を照射し透過した放射線を蛍光板で可視光に変換して銀塩フィルムを感光させ、この銀塩フィルムを化学処理することにより可視画像を得る方法がよく用いられている。

【0003】上記の方法は静止画像を得る方法であるが、動画像を得る方法としては、古くは蛍光板の発光を直接観察することから始まり、光電子増倍管又はイメージインテンシファイア（以下、I. I. と記す）により出力光を増幅した後、シネフィルムに記録する方法等が行われてきた。近年では、記録部にCCD等の光電変換デバイスを用いることにより、放射線画像をデジタル化して記録する方法が用いられている。

【0004】また、カテーテルを挿入し造影剤を注入して行う造影撮像や、バルーン挿入による血管狭窄の治療等のIVRにおいては、血管の空間的構造を得ることが必要となり、このため、被写体に対して2方向から放射線を照射してそれぞれ透過放射線を検出する、いわゆるバイプレーン撮像等が行われている。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】被写体を透過する放射線は吸収と散乱により減弱する。これらの吸収と散乱は被写体の密度、実効原子番号、厚さ等の性状、放射線の波長等の影響を受ける。このうち被写体の吸収による減弱が被写体コントラストを形成し、主要な情報の搬出の原因となる。一方、散乱線は方向性が無く散乱する放射線であり、放射線画像の形成過程において、鮮鋭度やコントラストを低下させる。この対策として、I. I. の放射線入射面に薄い金属箔の格子からなるグリッドを設けて、像を形成するのに有効な放射線は透過させ、散乱線はグリッドで吸収させる方法が用いられている。

【0006】また、上記バイプレーン撮像においては、放射線を2方向（フロントラ、ラテラル）から照射するため、上記グリッドを用いる方法だけでは充分ではない。上述したように、散乱線は方向性が無く被写体のあらゆる部分で発生する。このため、仮にフロントラの系で放射線が照射されたとすると、その放射線のうちラテ

ラルの系と同じ方向に拡散する散乱線成分はグリッドに吸収されることなく、ラテラルの系の受像部に入射して画像を劣化させてしまう。

【0007】この対策として従来よりフロントラ、ラテラルの各放射線照射を交互に行うと共に、受像部に電氣的又は機械的なシャッタを設けてブランキングを行うことにより、相互の系における散乱線の影響を避けるという方法が用いられている。

【0008】しかしながら上記の方法では、交互に放射線照射（撮像）とブランキングを行うので、フレームレートが半減する、フロントラとラテラルとで放射線照射のタイミングが異なるので、画像間で時間的ずれが生じる、ブランキングを行うために受像部や放射線制御部の機構が複雑になる等々の問題があった。

【0009】本発明は、上記の問題を解決するために成されたもので、バイプレーン撮像において、ブランキング動作を無くすことにより、フロントラ、ラテラルの放射線照射のタイミングを略同時に行えるようにし、これによって両画像間の時間的ずれを実質的に無くすことを目的としている。

【0010】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記の目的を達成するために、本発明による放射線撮像装置においては、被写体に第1の方向から放射線を照射する第1の照射手段と、上記第1の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を検出し画像データを出力する第1の検出手段と、上記被写体に第2の方向から放射線を照射する第2の照射手段と、上記第2の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を検出し画像データを出力する第2の検出手段と、上記第1の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第2の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第1の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶手段と、上記第2の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第1の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第2の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶手段と、上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に動作させたときに、上記第1の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第2の散乱線画像データで補正すると共に、上記第2の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第1の散乱線画像データで補正する補正手段とを設けている。

【0011】また、本発明によるコンピュータ読み取り可能な記憶媒体においては、第1の照射手段を用いて被写体に第1の方向から放射線を照射する照射処理と、上記第1の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を第1の検出手段を用いて検出し画像データを出力する検出処理と、第2の照射手段を用いて上記被写体に第2の方向から放射線を照射する照射処理と、上記第2の方向から上記被写体を透過した放射線を第2の検出手段を用いて検出し画像データを出力する検出処理と、上記第1の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第2の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第1の散乱線画像データを記憶する

記憶処理と、上記第2の照射手段のみを動作させたときに上記第1の検出手段から得られる散乱線による第2の散乱線画像データを記憶する記憶処理と、上記第1、第2の照射手段を同時に動作させたときに、上記第1の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第2の散乱線画像データで補正すると共に、上記第2の検出手段から得られる画像データを上記記憶した第1の散乱線画像データで補正する補正処理とを実行するためのプログラムを記憶している。

【0012】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態を図面と共に説明する。図1は本発明による放射線撮像装置の第1の実施の形態を示す構成図である。図1において、被写体1に対してフロントル系の放射線源11と放射線検出器12が設けられると共に、ラテラル系の放射線源21と放射線検出器22が設けられている。上記放射線検出器12、22は入射した放射線透過像を電気信号に変換するもので、例えばI₁、I₂の出力面にCCDを装着したものや、CCD又はアモルファスシリコン又はアモルファスセレンからなる2次元光電変換素子上に蛍光体を積層したもの等が用いられる。これらはいずれも各画素への放射線の入射量に応じたアナログ電気信号を各画素毎に出力する。

【0013】図2は動作タイミングを示すもので、X_Fはフロントル系の照射タイミング、X_Lはラテラル系の照射タイミングを示す。

【0014】オペレータが撮像ボタン（図示せず）を押すと、まず散乱線画像取得手順が行われる。この手順は、フロントル、ラテラルで放射線を交互に照射して、互いに別の系から入射した散乱線による散乱線画像と、交互照射による無補正画像とを取得するものである。

【0015】始めにフロントル側から照射を行うものとし、このときシステムコントローラ30はスイッチ14、15、24をa側に接続する。次にシステムコントローラ30は、別途設定された管電流、管電圧、照射時間に従って放射線源11を動作させ、放射線を発射させる。この放射線は被写体1を透過し、その透過画像が放射線検出器12でアナログ電気信号に変換される。このアナログ電気信号はA/D変換器13で図2のデジタルの画像データI_{F0}に変換される。このI_{F0}はスイッチ14、15を介して記憶部17に上記交互照射無補正画像として記憶される。

【0016】上記撮像においては、フロントル側の放射線源11からの放射線が被写体1により散乱したために生じた散乱線がラテラル側の放射線検出器22に入射する。この放射線検出器22から出力されるアナログ電気信号はA/D変換器23でデジタルの画像データS_{L0}に変換される。このS_{L0}はスイッチ24を介して記憶部26に散乱線画像として記憶される。

【0017】次にラテラル側から照射を行うために、シ

10 I_{L0}は、交互に単独で放射線を照射したことにより取得した画像なので、相互の系に散乱線の影響を与えていない。このためシステムコントローラ30は、後述する後段の移動検出部18、28及び減算器19、29をデータが素通りするように制御して、記憶部17、27に記憶されている上記交互照射無補正画像I_{F0}、I_{L0}を出力させる。

20 【0019】次に、フロントル、ラテラル同時照射手順を行う。このためにシステムコントローラ30は、スイッチ14をa側に、スイッチ15をb側に接続する。またスイッチ24をb側に、スイッチ25をa側に接続する。

【0020】この状態で、放射線源11、21より同時に放射線を照射させると、被写体1を透過あるいは散乱した放射線が放射線検出器12、22に入射し、A/D変換器13、23を介して図2の同時照射無補正画像I_{F1}、I_{L1}が得られる。このI_{F1}、I_{L1}は、被写体1の移動検出部18、28に送られて、被写体1の移動が検出される。

30 【0021】移動検出部18、28では、記憶部17、27に記憶されている交互照射無補正画像I_{F0}、I_{L0}及び今取得した同時照射無補正画像I_{F1}、I_{L1}に描出されている例えば心臓、血管、その他の臓器等の被写体1の内部構成要素を抽出し、その面積、周囲長、重心の移動ベクトルを検出することにより、被写体1の移動を検出する。一般に散乱線は被写体1によって散乱した放射線によるものであるため、被写体1の多少の動き、例えば呼吸による体の動き等にはさほど影響を受けない。

40 【0022】しかし、被写体1が乗せられた撮影テーブルを移動させながら撮影部位を連続的に変更していく、又は被写体1の撮影部位が変化する、又は放射線の入射方向が変化するほど大きく移動した場合等では、散乱線の分布も大きく変化する。このため、検出された被写体1の移動量がある閾値を越えたときは、後述するように再び交互照射による散乱線画像取得手順を行い、閾値を越えない場合は、散乱線の変化量は許容範囲内であると判断して同時照射手順を行う。

50 【0023】今、I_{F1}、I_{L1}からは被写体1の動きが検出されなかったとすると、I_{F1}、I_{L1}はそのまま減算器19、29へ送られ、ここで記憶部16、26の散乱線画像S_{F0}、S_{L0}を減算する補正が行われ、補正された画

像データが出力される。以後は、被写体1の移動が検出されるまで上記動作が行われる。

【0024】次に、図2の同時照射無補正画像 I_{F6} 、 I_{L6} を取得したとき、移動検出部18、28で被写体1の移動が検出されたとする。このとき上記補正された画像として $I_{F6}-S_{F0}$ 、 $I_{L6}-S_{L0}$ を出力する。上記出力後、再び前述した交互照射による散乱線画像取得手順を行って、記憶部16、26の散乱線画像を S_{F1} 、 S_{L1} に更新する。

【0025】図2において、再び交互照射が行われているときは、 BL_F 、 BF_L に出力すべき画像が存在しないが、前のフレームの画像をそのまま出力するか、あるいは減算器19、29の後段にフレーム間補間手段を設け、前後のデータから補間した画像データを作成して出力するようにしてもよい。以後、撮像が行われている間は、移動検出部18、28で所定の移動が検出される度に上記動作が繰り返され、記憶部16、26の散乱線画像が更新される。

【0026】次に、本発明の第2の実施の形態を図3と共に説明する。上記第1の実施の形態では、被写体1の移動を検出するのに、交互照射無補正画像と同時照射無補正画像との変化量から検出したが、本実施の形態では、図3のように、各スイッチ14、15、24、25を接続している。図3の構成によれば、同時照射時に得られた画像を記憶部16、26の散乱線画像を用いて減算器19、29で補正した画像と、記憶部17、27の交互照射による画像とを移動検出部18、28に送ることにより、移動を検出することができる。

【0027】その他の移動検出方法としては、例えば、放射線画像を用いずに、ビデオカメラ等から得た可視光画像から移動を検出してもよい。また、加速度センサや静電容量検出器等の被写体に接触又は非接触の移動検出手段を設けてもよい。さらに、被写体を乗せる撮影テーブルに加速度センサやポテンシオメータ等の移動検出手段を設けてもよい。

【0028】尚、図1、図3の各機能ブロックによるシステムは、ハード的に構成してもよく、また、CPUやメモリ等からなるコンピュータシステムに構成してもよい。コンピュータシステムに構成する場合、上記メモリは本発明による記憶媒体を構成する。この記憶媒体には、前述した動作を制御するための処理手順を実行するためのプログラムが記憶される。

【0029】また、この記憶媒体としては、ROM、RAM等の半導体メモリ、光ディスク、光磁気ディスク、磁気媒体等を用いてよく、これらをCD-ROM、フロッピーディスク、磁気媒体、磁気カード、不揮発性メモリカード等に構成して用いてよい。

【0030】従って、この記憶媒体を図1、図3に示したシステム以外の他のシステムあるいは装置で用い、そのシステムあるいはコンピュータがこの記憶媒体に格納されたプログラムコードを読み出し、実行することによっても、前述した各実施の形態と同等の機能を実現できると共に、同等の効果を得ることができ、本発明の目的を達成することができる。

【0031】また、コンピュータ上で稼働しているOS等が処理の一部又は全部を行う場合、あるいは、記憶媒体から読み出されたプログラムコードが、コンピュータに挿入された拡張機能ボードやコンピュータに接続された拡張機能ユニットに備わるメモリに書き込まれた後、そのプログラムコードの指示に基づいて、上記拡張機能ボードや拡張機能ユニットに備わるCPU等が処理の一部又は全部を行う場合にも、各実施の形態と同等の機能を実現できると共に、同等の効果を得ることができ、本発明の目的を達成することができる。

【0032】

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、本発明によれば、バイプレーン撮像を行う際に、交互照射により散乱線画像を得、この散乱線画像により同時照射により得られる画像を補正するように構成したことにより、従来のようなブランピング動作をなくすことができ、フレームレートの低下を防ぐことができると共に、受像部及び放射線制御部の構成を簡単にすることができ、またフロントル、ラテラルの放射線照射タイミングを同時にして両画像間の時間的ずれをなくすことができる。

【0033】また、被写体の移動を確実に検出することができると共に、移動が検出されたときに上記散乱線画像を更新することにより、画像の補正をより精度良く行うことができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の実施の形態による放射線撮像装置のブロック図である。

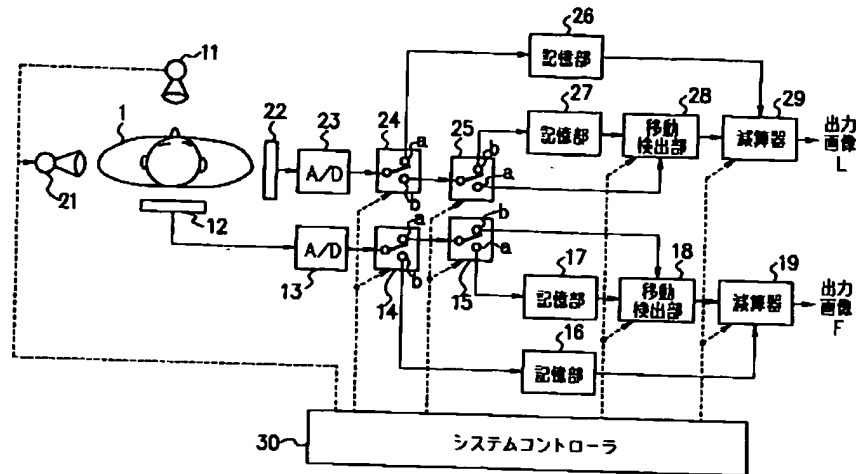
【図2】動作を示すタイミングチャートである。

【図3】本発明の第2の実施の形態による放射線撮像装置の要部のブロック図である。

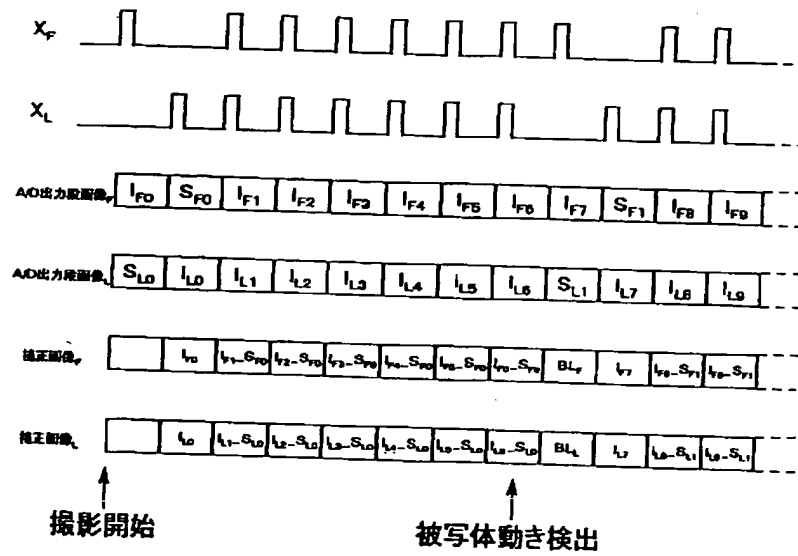
【符号の説明】

- 1 被写体
- 11、21 放射線源
- 12、22 放射線検出器
- 13、23 A/D変換器
- 14、15、24、25 スイッチ
- 16、17、26、27 記憶部
- 18、28 移動検出手段
- 19、29 減算器
- 30 システムコントローラ

【図1】



【図2】



【図3】

